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in Grossenhain

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1. Prior to 14 February 1951, the VP unit in Grossenhain was referred to as Bereitschaft 211/15 in general correspondence and as VP Dienststelle (VPD) 19/16 in police correspondence. The VPD was subordinate to the HVA in Berlin-Adlershof with which it was connected by police telephone. All telephone calls were made under varying cover designations through the VP Leitstelle (signal-communications center) in Grossenhain.
2. Upon completion of the training cycle on 15 December 1950, 80 percent of the personnel of the former VP Bereitschaft in Grossenhain were reassigned to numerous VPDs in the Soviet Zone of Germany until 25 December 1950. The few officers who remained with the unit in Grossenhain were VP Kommandeur Wellner, (fmu), PK officer; VP Oberkommissar Neumann, (fmu), FDJ secretary; and VP Oberkommissar Loos, (fmu), investigation officer. On 27 December 1950, 200 VP recruits arrived at the unit and were issued uniforms. They came from the former 2nd VP Bereitschaft of Land Mecklenburg in Rostock, which was said to be the VP replacement unit for the VPD in Grossenhain. Trained police from the VP Bereitschaften in Apolda, Rostock and Prisewald also arrived in Grossenhain.
3. The VPD in Grossenhain numbered about 2,000 police, but had a T/O strength of 3,200. It was organized into three infantry Kommandos, one artillery Kommando, and seven Abteilungen of different branches of service.
4. Each infantry Kommando had the following components:
 - a. First Abteilung, an assault unit, with a T/O strength of 65 police; equipped with models 30, 40 and 44 submachine guns for enlisted personnel and model 08 pistols and 7.65-mm PPK pistols for officers.
 - b. Second and third Abteilung, two rifle units, with a T/O strength of 65 police each; equipped with carbines, model 43 assault rifles, model 34 machine guns both with and without carriages. Theoretical instruction on Soviet model 38 rifles has been given for some time.

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- c. Fourth Abteilung, a heavy machine gun unit; with a T/O strength of 65 police; equipped with models 08 and 34 heavy machine guns, with machine gunners 1 and 2 being armed with pistols and submachine guns respectively, and machine gunner 3 and ammunition bearers with carbines. Theoretical instructions on Soviet machine guns has been given for some time.
- d. Fifth Abteilung, a mortar unit, with a T/O strength of 65 police, who trained with German 80-mm mortars and received theoretical instruction on Soviet mortars.
- e. A signal Zug, temporarily attached to the signal Abteilung for training.
- f. An engineer Zug, temporarily attached to the engineer Abteilung for training.

5. The artillery Kommando had a T/O strength of 320 police.

6. The seven Abteilungen of different branches of service were the following:

- a. Armored Abteilung with 100 police compared to a T/O strength of 120 police; equipped with 16 overhauled T-34 tanks and including a motorcycle messenger.
- b. Armored reconnaissance Abteilung with 40 police compared to a T/O strength of 65 police; equipped with 12 armored reconnaissance cars.
- c. Signal-communications Abteilung with 50 police compared to a T/O strength of 65 police; equipped with a 10-extension switchboard and an undetermined number of radio sets.
- d. Engineer Abteilung with 60 police compared to a T/O strength of 65 police. The personnel practiced the construction of field fortifications in the Grossenhain training area, not yet having been issued engineer equipment.
- e. Reconnaissance Abteilung with 40 police and a T/O strength of 65 police. The personnel were being trained in patrol activity.
- f. AT artillery Abteilung with 52 police and a T/O strength of 65 police; equipped with one former German AT gun of undetermined caliber.
- g. AAA Abteilung with 55 police and a T/O strength of 65 police; equipped with a former German 120-mm AA gun.

7. The organization of the VPD as specified above is in accordance

examined. Being organized on this pattern, the new VPDs nearly equal Soviet-style regiments. In the new VPDs, there will be about five enlisted police to one officer, including administrative officers.

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8. Summarized, the equipment of the VPD in Grossenhain included 16 T-34 tanks, 2 former German 150-mm long-barreled artillery pieces, 1 former German 120-mm AA gun, 1 former German AT gun, 60 model 34 light machine guns, 25 models 08, 34 and 42 heavy machine guns, 1 Soviet heavy machine gun, 1,200 models 38, 40 and 44 submachine guns, 1 Soviet submachine gun with drum magazine, 250 model 43 assault carbines, 674 model 98-K carbines and model 98 rifles, and 500 models 08, Walther and Mauser 7.65-mm pistols. Soviet model 38 rifles were recently issued to the VPD, with more Soviet weapons, such as AT guns and mortars, being expected to arrive.
9. Personnel of the VPD included VP Kommandeur Gebauer, commanding officer; VP Kommandeur Wellner, deputy commanding officer and PK officer; VP Oberkommissar Kuehn, SED secretary; VP Oberrat Zeitler, chairman of the SED commission; VP Oberrat Heinke, chief of staff; VP Kommandeur Engelke, director of training, formerly commanding officer of the VP Bereitschaft in Berlin-Treptow; VP Oberrat Donat, head of the SED (State Security Service) office which had the cover name Zukunft (future); VP Rat Ackermann, ration supply officer; VP Oberkommissar Loos, head of the VPD orderly room and interrogation officer; VP Kommissar Bornhardt, personnel officer; VP Kommandeur Prozowski, medical officer; VP Kommissar Kuehle, director of propaganda; and VP Kommissar Lochner, director of cultural activities. Other unidentified personalities on the staff of the VPD included a paymaster official with three clerks; an ordnance official with five assistants; an official in charge of training aids; two officials in charge of classified material; an official in charge of party documents; and three adjutants who were assigned to the VPD commander, the deputy commander and the PK officer respectively.
10. In contrast to the previous differentiation between VP Bereitschaften and schools, the new VPD was a tactical unit which trained its own personnel, detaching only individual police to special training cycles, such as instruction in demolition service. Training of the VPD personnel was conducted on platoon and company level and consisted of attack and defense training, patrol activity, field and outpost duty, combat in woods, close combat drill, theoretical instruction, training in firing, basic infantry training, athletic activities, political indoctrination, map reading, ballistics, gas defense instruction and first-aid training. Training procedure was based on Soviet Army service manuals, while administrative procedure was based on former German Army regulations. Large-scale field exercises in conjunction with Soviet Army units were scheduled for the spring of 1951.
11. Two four-story barracks buildings were under construction in the billeting area of the VPD, each building having a billeting capacity of 350 police. The completion of the buildings, originally scheduled for 15 December 1950, having been delayed because of a shortage of materials, [redacted] the first building would be ready by March 1951 and the second by mid-May.
12. VP Kommandeur Fleissner, formerly commanding officer of the VP Bereitschaft in Grossenhain, was charged with the activation of a new VPD in Zerithain which was to have the same organizational structure as the VPD in Grossenhain.

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13. It was said that weapons for the Volkspolizei were stored in a very large depot in the woods in the area of the former troop training grounds near Zeithain. The depot was still guarded by Soviet soldiers. *

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Comment: The newly activated VPD in Grossenhain was previously reported. Its organization largely corresponds to the standard organization of the other new VPDs. The designation 211/15 was probably dropped in January 1951, as was observed with the other VPDs, so that the present cover number of the VPD is probably 1916.

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